

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (New): A process for preparing a carrier for use in the preparation of powdery mixtures for the administration by inhalation of micronized drugs, said carrier comprising a plurality of particles, wherein said plurality of particles has a median diameter greater than 90 micron and a surface rugosity expressed as the fractal dimension of less than or equal to 1.1, said process comprising:

subjecting the plurality of particles having a median diameter of greater than 90 micron to repeated stages of wetting with a solvent and drying.

Claim 23 (New): The process according to Claim 22, wherein said plurality of particles has a median diameter of from 90 to 150 micron.

Claim 24 (New): The process according to Claim 22, wherein said plurality of particles has a surface rugosity of from 1.0 to 1.1.

Claim 25 (New): The process according to Claim 22, wherein the carrier particles are made of a physiologically acceptable inert material selected from the group consisting of glucose, mannose, galactose, sorbitol, mannitol, lactose, saccharose, trahalose, raffinose, cyclodextrins and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (New): The process according to Claim 22, wherein a carrier substantially free from fine particles is obtained.

Claim 27 (New): The process according to Claim 22, comprising carrying out the repeated stages of wetting and drying in a high-speed granulator, said high-speed granulator consisting of a cylindrical mixing chamber comprising a rotating paddle (impeller) and a sprayer, wherein said high-speed granulator is capable of operating at controlled temperature and pressure.

Claim 28 (New): The process according to Claim 27, wherein the high-speed granulator is a Roto J. Zanchetta or a Diosna apparatus.

Claim 29 (New): The process according to Claim 27, wherein the total mixing time during the repeated stages of wetting and drying is from 120 to 300 minutes.

Claim 30 (New): The process according to Claim 22, wherein the wetting is carried out with a short-chain aliphatic alcohol or a water-alcohol mixture as the solvent.

Claim 31 (New): The process according to Claim 22, wherein the solvent is a water-alcohol mixture and the ratio between the water and alcohol is from 9:3 to 3:4 v/v.

Claim 32 (New): The process according to Claim 23, wherein said plurality of particles has a surface rugosity of from 1.0 to 1.1.

Claim 33 (New): The process according to Claim 28, wherein the total mixing time during the repeated stages of wetting and drying is from 120 to 300 minutes.